

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

January 26, 2023

"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."

Issue CIII.1

Photos courtesy of Richard Jones '25



Two Stories from Dr. Ballard: Finder of Titanic Wreck Visits Campus

RICHARD JONES '25
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I was lucky enough to have dinner with Dr. Robert Ballard before he embarked on his underwater exploration with the rest of the College on January 19th, meaning that I got to hear some of his best stories from that presentation in a very different setting. These stories may or may not be accurate to the smallest detail, but they represent what I remember from that dinner with the man who would soon have a naval vessel bearing his name. I went to that dinner dressed to the nines, at least as much as an undergraduate could be, and expected Dr. Ballard to be dressed in like manner, maybe in a military uniform or three-piece suit. It was rather surprising, then, to see the modern-day Indiana Jones dressed in a smart black turtle-neck with matching blazer, but I would soon discover that this attire better suited his maverick personality than anything else. I soon introduced myself

with the usual college greeting, egotistically expecting my aspirations to a double-major to impress the recipient of 23 honorary doctorates. But Dr. Ballard merely smiled and continued the conversation until we were directed to sit down. When asked where he would like to sit, Dr. Ballard smiled and began his first tale. "Have you ever heard the story of the Dead Man's Hand?" he asked as he moved to the back of the table. "Once, Wild Bill Hickok, a famous outlaw in the Old West, was playing cards with his friends in a local saloon. He took a seat with his back to the saloon doors and had just begun playing when a young man entered the saloon and put several bullets into his back. It was later found out that the outlaw had killed this young man's father mere days beforehand. Anyway, the outlaw slumped forward in his chair, revealing his hand to be a pair of black aces and a pair of black eights." Dr. Ballard smiled as he laid his hand on a seat towards the middle of

the table. "Ever since I heard that story, I always take a seat facing the door." After that, we sat down and were served salads to start supper. Conversation dragged on for a little while, but it was time for the second story before you knew it, the story that everyone wanted to ask him. "Believe it or not, I wasn't supposed to find the Titanic," Dr. Ballard began, "The French were supposed to find it. But we had lost a nuclear submarine, the Scorpion, around that time, and the CIA wanted me to go and map it so that they could recover or safely dispose of the weapons." He took a bite of his salad, which would remain mostly unfinished because everyone and their mother wanted to him that night. "I needed a cover story, of course. This was during the Cold War, and we couldn't let the Reds know that we had lost a nuclear submarine and that high-grade American nuclear warheads were ripe for the picking." He paused for a moment. "Luckily, the Scorpion was right

here," Dr. Ballard said, plunking a salt shaker down on the table. "And we thought the Titanic was right here," he continued, plunking a pepper shaker straight across from it. "So the CIA promised to fund my expedition to find the Titanic, so long as I went to the Scorpion first." "Problem was, we had people from the National Geographic, the French, and a whole bunch of other people aboard who didn't have any security clearance. They thought I was only going to find the Titanic." Dr. Ballard laughed a bit. "So what do you do when you have to hoodwink a bunch of educated men during the Cold War?" he asked. The table was silent until Dr. Ballard spoke again. "Tell you what I did," he said, "I asked the CIA to send three female naval officers to pose as my stenographers and guard our makeshift HQ on the ship." Dr. Ballard laughed a bit more. "Those girls knew who had the clearance to come into the room and who didn't, and most of the journalists and foreign representatives never batted an eye because they couldn't see past their own misogyny." He chuckled to himself a bit more. "Anyway, we reached the Scorpion and completed our mission with no problems and then went to find the Titanic." As the dinner drew to a close

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New Ice Machine Installed in Carpenter Z

RICHARD JONES '25
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Last semester, Senator Drew Blakenship had an idea. He had been tired of paying \$12.50 for a bag of ice every time there was a social event and every time he bagged a deer in December. With that kind of tax of necessity, who wouldn't be? So Blakenship decided to do something about it. He decided to push for the Hampden-Sydney Student Senate to install an ice machine so that everyone on campus could have access to free ice. "I really appreciate the help of Facilities and OSA with this ice machine," Blakenship

said in an interview, "I couldn't have gotten it done without their help." After gaining the Senate's approval, which was given wholeheartedly to such a noble cause; Facilities was able to install the \$7000 ice machine (including maintenance and ice bags) in Carpenter Z at the beginning of this semester. If you want to find it, it is located in the back of the laundry room in that building. "Care for it, guys," Blakenship stated at the end of his interview, "treat it well because it would be hard to get another one of these." This reporter could not agree more.

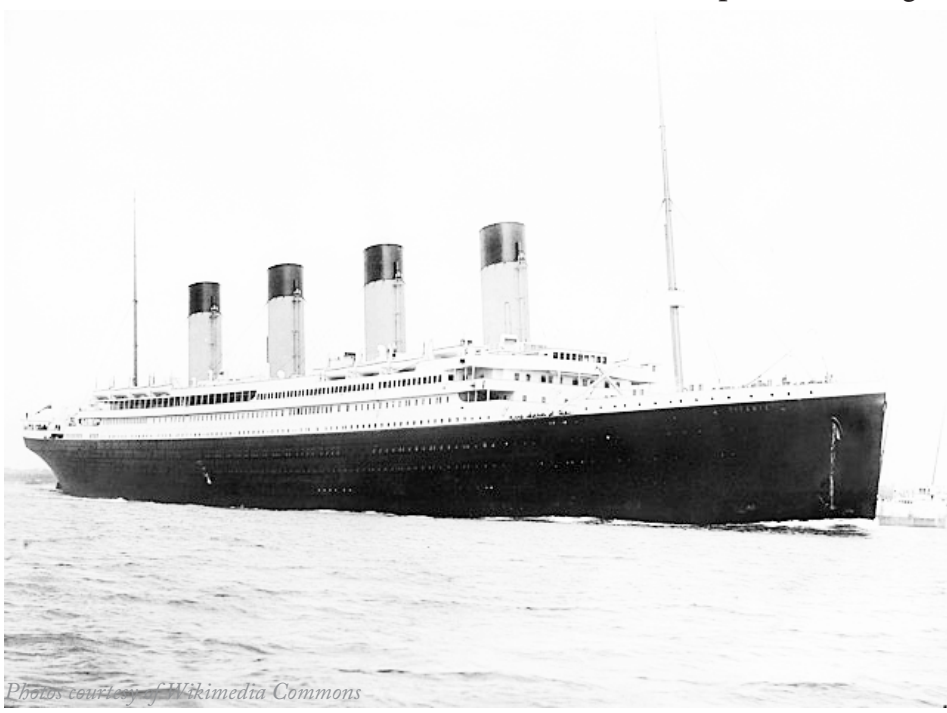
Senate Passes Student Finance Board Reform Bill



RICHARD JONES '25
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On January 24, 2023, the Student Senate of Hampden-Sydney passed a bill reforming the Student Finance Board. The Board, which had become overly populated with appointed officials, had problems with biases toward specific student groups. Under the leadership of Student Secretary-Treasurer Nick Rubino, the Board has limited such biases by taking a more advisory position with student gov-

ernment, advising the Senate on how it should spend student funds. This bill, proposed by Noah Moore, would formalize the Student Finance Board's advisory position in the Key, preventing further instances of bias. This bill, which also ensures that faculty cannot "bully" money out of the SFB, has passed with the support of the Senate and of the Secretary-Treasurer. It will be sent out to the student body for ratification later this week.



Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

Founded 31 January 1920
by J. B. Wall '19

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The views expressed in the Hampden-Sydney Tiger are those of their authors and do not reflect the official stance of The Tiger.

We accept submissions in the form of letters or guest columns. Brevity is encouraged. Interested writers, cartoonists, and photographers can send us an e-mail at newspaper@hsc.edu.

PAGE TWO

Letter to the Editor:
On the Education of a Hampden-Sydney Man

How might an alumnus or a student respond if asked what it means to be a Hampden-Sydney man? Would the response highlight a commitment to abide by the honor code and the code of student conduct or the successful completion of mandatory graduation requirements? The response is unlikely to begin with reference either to the college’s name or, even more unlikely, to what American colonists referred to as the “cause of republican liberty,” but both would be good places to begin.

To paraphrase President Stimpert, the college’s name is brimming with significance. John Hampden and Algernon Sidney were well known to American colonists who respected Hampden’s and Sidney’s courageous commitment to republican liberty. They were not the only prominent figures associated with the cause of republican liberty, John Locke certainly stood out in this regard, but they stood apart for the colonists as decidedly courageous defenders of this cause. The name of the college is a reminder that liberty is insecure in the absence of courage as well as enlightenment.

The founders of the college undoubtedly wanted Hampden-Sydney men to receive an education with a republican liberty twist—what other explanation for sending them into the world branded as Hampden and Sidney men, that is, as “good men and good citizens” who understand the connection between republican liberty, tempered by republican manners/habits, and human flourishing?

Republican liberty, or the liberty that the founders of the college and prominent colonists such as George Washington associated with a political community whose principal aim is the advancement of the public good, was assumed to be beneficial for nurturing rational as well as moral conduct. Entrusting people with tangible and considerable control over their affairs, forcing them to engage in serious decision-making about personal and collective interests, was seen as the best way to nurture thoughtful and moral citizens—the best way to sharpen minds and develop good moral consciences.

It would be odd indeed if Hampden-Sydney’s mission did not walk hand-in-hand with the cause of republican liberty and its connection to responsible (thoughtful and fair) governance of personal and communal affairs, the protection of fundamental liberties such as freedom of speech, association and belief, a commitment to due process of law and the protection of contract as well

as property rights, and a social culture conducive to enriching friendships, creative entrepreneurship, and vibrant communities.

To say that Washington and the founders of HSC were on to something important when they connected republican liberty with intellectual and moral enrichment is not to argue that their reasoning was flawless or that the American republic or HSC at its founding were perfect in every way—nothing created by flawed and fallible beings will ever be perfect. The evidence, however, suggests that the cause of republican liberty is pretty good soil in which to plant political and educational institutions.

What about the curriculum, and especially the “core” curriculum, at an institution whose name is synonymous with republican liberty and whose mission accentuates citizenship preparation? Most obviously, HSC men should be prepared to write well (with clarity, elegance and insightfulness), speak well, read well, and also to think well, that is, in an informed and thoughtful way about subjects ranging from philosophy and religion, literature and the arts, politics/history (including global affairs) and economics, to mathematics and the natural sciences.

The college’s name and mission statement remind us that HSC students should understand the meaning of republican liberty, the connection between republican liberty and human flourishing, and the conditions that enrich and those that corrupt republican liberty. Drilling down a bit deeper, it simply is not possible to be the informed and thoughtful citizen envisioned by the founders of HSC without knowing what it means to be an “American” and an appreciation of what it means to be a “Western”—it is not by mere chance that the nation referred to globally as “America” is matter-of-factly associated with the “West.”

Not surprisingly, at the heart of a Hampden-Sydney education since 1775 has been the study of the Enlightenment, the Reformation and the Renaissance, and the contributions of Judaism and Christianity as well as ancient Greece and Rome to Western Civilization. Dialectical engagement in the study of these subjects that span the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences (and the associated conversations that occur outside the classroom) not only illuminates what it means to be a good citizen in the American constitutional republic, but also shines a bright light on what it means to be a good man. This dialectical exercise is enhanced

when nourished by reflection on these subjects not only from inside but from outside our cultural horizons.

One dramatic way to make it abundantly clear that the college takes citizenship preparation seriously would be to add a “citizenship proficiency requirement” to the curriculum as a companion to the rhetoric proficiency requirement—after all, why should citizenship preparation not be valued at least as highly as the mastery of communications skills, especially in a political community where sovereign power resides with the citizen body? A citizenship proficiency requirement could be satisfied by successfully completing (1) a semester of American history and/or American government that covers the foundational principles and dynamic constitutional history of the United States, (2) a comprehensive introduction to Western Civilization/Culture, and (3) a citizenship proficiency exam (an enhanced version of the citizenship exam that is administered to persons who wish to become “naturalized” citizens) that could be paired with the rhetoric proficiency exam. If the proof really is in the pudding or the tasting of the pudding, to cite an old adage, then the college’s commitment to citizenship preparation should be eminently visible and incontestable.

The college’s mission must have more than a rhetorical existence. The mission must have a ‘real world’ existence that is only possible if the commitment to prepare students to be “good men and good citizens” is abundantly evident in the curriculum as well as in HSC’s distinctive “band of brothers” culture that, at its best, nurtures practical wisdom (knowledge and skills applicable to everyday challenges) and a heightened sense of moral discernment (attention to fairness/justice as a deep-seated habit)—a heady challenge indeed!

There is every reason to believe that colonists like Washington and the founders of HSC would have considered it an honor to be called a Hampden-Sydney man and also a burden. HSC men wear intellectual and moral garments woven from the inspiring and durable fabric of the college’s and nation’s foundings, something that should be a source of considerable pride; and they also have a special responsibility for protecting republican liberty and the conditions that make for human flourishing—a burden that also should be a source of great pride.

Dr. David Marion
Professor Emeritus of
Government and
Foreign Affairs

Ballard, Cont’d

a good while after we were supposed to leave, I told Dr. Ballard that I was a reporter for the college newspaper. I held withheld that information out of a desire to learn as much as I could about this remarkable individual, without imposing upon him the fear of having to monitor his speech for the press; but, after the fact, I knew it was my duty as a reporter and generally

decent human being to inform him that I intended to use some of his stories for the upcoming issue and to give him an opportunity to prohibit some of his stories from being sent out to the public if he so desired. But before I could even get the words “Would you like me to...” out of my mouth, he smiled and said, “Well, you have some stories for your paper now.”

H-SC SLUDGE REPORT

From the Under Secretary to the
Arch-General Secretary of Impulsive
Sludge: (Jeffrey Hunsaker '23)
Dr. Werth Loses Mind Over
Break; Tried to Convert Pauley
to Whale Habitat

First Day IN-Complete to
Deliver Books by Finals Week

Hampden-Sydney Clubs Vye for
Tumbleweed’s Attention at Club
Fair

Dr. Bob Ballard Commissioned
to Find 42 Million Dollars of
Value in Pauley Basement.

Skippy the Squirrel Takes TigerFund
Leadership, “I Will Responsably
Lead this Organization.”

Students Tune into Tiger Radio.

Dr. Frusetta on Sabbatical
Arming Dissidents in Chechnya
Ohio.

FBI Raids Middlecourt for
Classified Documents, Seizes
UPLS Property

LIFE

TIGER TALES

JONATHAN COLEMAN '26
GUEST WRITER

Detective Melvin Grimm stared at the wreckage of the museum, his black hair and his trench coat billowing out behind him. Four days had passed since the event occurred, and the site had finally been deemed safe to enter. Grimm could finally get on with his task: locate the cause of the strange happenings that locals had noticed half a week ago.

He stood on the scorched marble steps, leaning down to get a closer look at a particularly large burn mark. *What*

could have caused something like this? He traced his eyes from the mark to the empty arch where the door had once been. *The fire spilled out of there, he thought, but what fool would be crazy enough to play with fire in a museum? It would have to have been a heck of a lot of it, too. No one would have been able to smuggle in that much of any fire-starter.*

After standing back up, he took a few tentative steps toward the arch. After taking a deep, calming breath, he stepped through. He noted that the destruction of the museum had been very thorough-

most nothing had been left standing. The masonry that had stood for so long had crumbled into dust and irregular pieces of



Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

rock, and who knew how many priceless artifacts had been lost forever. Now it was nothing but a large vacant lot, full of ruins and

cordoned off from public eyes by a hastily erected fence. And within that lot stood Grimm, a man with a mission. He walked

through the ruins, careful to step over any obstructions in his path. He stopped at the base of a stone column that had been cut in half,

leaving the upper part lying nearby. Grimm noticed that the edges of each half, the ones that would have fit together had the column been whole, were jagged instead of straight. It obviously hadn't been a clean cut; instead, it looked almost as if something had slammed into it, causing it to crumble. *Intriguing ...* Grimm continued his rounds, surveying what pieces of the ruin were still standing. He stopped to consult his notebook. Beginning from the first page, he read it silently to himself. *Official Police report 4976... June 17, lo-*

cals in the downtown area reported seeing fire and strange red flashes coming from within the museum, before it crumbled only minutes later. The fire part he could believe. He'd seen the evidence with his own eyes. Had it been arson? No, he decided; no arson job could leave a building in this state. So, what had happened? He couldn't see any obvious signs of structural failure, or evidence of explosives. Had Grimm had finally met his match, a case too confusing even for him?

CHRISTIAN'S CORNER:

SAINT PAUL AND LOYOLA PRAY FOR US

DAVID CREGO '23
COPY EDITOR

Brothers and Sisters of Hampden-Sydney, it is good to be back on campus. Admittedly, it has been a dreary couple of days, as we seem to have seen more rainy days than sunny ones recently, but there is a charm to this campus even when it is soaking wet and bone-chillingly cold. I hope all of your Christmas breaks went well. It is always a joy to spend time with family during Christmas and New Year's. I write this article on January 25th, the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle Feast Day. Paul's example is one that should inspire us. First, as how an enemy of the Church was able to turn his life around and become one of the

greatest proclaimers of the Word of God. Second, to appreciate the transformative nature of the Gospels. We must remember that Saint Paul was not always the stalwart warrior for Christ; he was previously Saul, a Pharisee inquisitor and Roman citizen who persecuted the early Christian Church. When Saint Stephen was martyred, "Saul was consenting to his death" (Acts 8:1). Saul's persecution was ruthless as he "laid waste the Church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3). Then we have his miraculous conversion: "Now as [Saul] journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from

heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' And he said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'" (Acts 9:1-6) The conversion of Saint Paul reflects each of our own personal conversions. Some of us might have been born into a Christian family, some might have converted into the faith, while others cling onto loose ground, hoping a life without God will bring security. Regardless of where one is in his spiritual journey, we must recognize that our faith, our rela-

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THREE-POINTERS FROM MR. SHOTWELL

CARTER SHOTWELL
GUEST WRITER-COUNSELOR

Welcome back, Tigers. We in the Office of Academic Success are loving the new semester, new me energy y'all are bringing to campus with you. If you've made a resolution for this semester, here are three tips for sticking with it. 1. **Commit yourself.** Tell someone else about your goal. This could be a friend, a professor, a family member, or an Academic Counselor (hint hint). Ask them to check in with you from time to time about how it's going. Saying your intention

out loud locks you in to the decision, and you'll want to impress your person when they ask you about it.

2. **Pace yourself.** I worry about students who tell me this semester will be 100% focused on school, no social distractions. That's not realistic or sustainable. I'd rather hear something like, "I'm going to work during the day and only hang out with my friends after 4 pm." Better to make small changes to your daily routine than to overhaul your entire college existence. 3. **Treat yourself.** Establishing new habits is hard! Ac-

knowledge that by building in rewards to your plan. Eat your favorite candy while you do your least favorite homework. Schedule a poker game that can't start until you and your friends have all submitted that paper. When you keep a promise to yourself, you deserve a pat on the back.

Mr. Shotwell works in the Office of Academic Success. If your scholastic game is off, he can help you get on track. Email cshotwell@hsc.edu to book an appointment.

WHO WANTS A BUGATTI ANYWAY?

A TAKE ON ANDREW TATE

JOHN C. HAYNES '26
STAFF WRITER

Despite coming from the most progressive generation in history, a certain sub-sect of young men have become attracted to a doctrine of pure amoral materialism. This doctrine has been seen as an extension of "toxic masculinity." Toxic masculinity, a word that many who were active on the internet in 2016 would cringe at, actually is a very real concept, despite its misuse and defamation. In the John-C.-Haynes-certified-definition, toxic masculinity is the promotion of actions and behaviors traditionally seen as masculine, with a disregard for the boundaries of women. By this definition, most men do not exhibit profound toxic masculinity, but this fact does not excuse those who do. Since the decade began, a growing online movement that actively promotes toxic masculinity has taken root. This movement, known as the manosphere, grew out of both the incel and men's rights crazes of the 2010s. Unlike both the incel community and men's rights activist groups, the manosphere exhibits a more structured hierarchy, with traditional pick-up artists dominating the scene. At the very top of this hierarchy, above the incels and the small-league dating coaches, is a man who has become infamous online, the Top G himself, Andrew Tate.

I first heard about Andrew Tate in August, 2022, around the same time of the Money Club's downfall, after his accounts were removed from both Facebook and Instagram. Unbeknownst to me, Andrew Tate had been a well-known figure online for several years. After retiring from a successful kickboxing career, where he was once considered the cruiserweight world champion, Tate became an online self-help guru. From 2017 onward, Tate would make a presence on both YouTube and other social media platforms, giving advice to young men, who, for a lack of better phrase, can't get any. Tate quickly gained attention for controversial views, such as stating on Twitter that "depression isn't real." This was compounded by his staunch opposition to the "MeToo movement," which advocated against workplace sexual abuse. Tate specifically defended now-convicted sex offender Harvey Weinstein on Twitter in 2017, stating, "Women have been exchanging sex for opportunity for a very long time. Some did this. Weren't abused. Of course now they will say they were abused. However at the time it was a simple exchange they partook in voluntarily. Not all. But some."

In 2021, Tate took his self-help empire pro, starting "Hustlers University," an online series of courses where Tate and his

friends claimed to teach men how to be successful. Courses advertised not only methods of seduction, but how to become a businessperson and get rich quick. Of course, Hustlers University was a hustle in itself, with the entire program being labeled as an MLM. Those who bought-in to Hustlers University would then be offered a cash incentive to bring others on to the website. At the same time, Tate was also running another scam, an empire of webcam girls. Described as a scam by Tate's business partner, who happened to be his own brother, the webcam business would feature women, under the guise of performing a sexual act, breaking down and telling a fake sob story to the customer. The customer, as a result, would feel an obligation to come back and pay for more time with this cam girl to comfort her, feeling an obligation to fill her salary. Worse than that, Tate himself claimed that he was involved in a poly-amorous relationship with roughly half the staff of the company, whom he claimed to have seduced and forced into performing sexual acts on camera.

Andrew Tate believes he is inherently superior to those around him. In the past, Tate has cited his father, a world champion chess player, as his inspiration. Tate sees himself as cold

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OPINION

SPOILER ALERTS NEVER SPOIL:
SAVING MY STREET CRED

DANIEL NIVENS '24
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To those of you who know me, you probably know that I am quite terrible at watching movies. Chances are if you ever ask me “Have you seen this movie?”, the answer is no. So, in an effort to make myself watch some movies, I am writing this column. In every issue of The Tiger, I will be writing a non-spoiler review of an old movie that I had never seen. These movies could be a decade old; they could be five decades old. The moral of the story is that spoiler alerts never spoil.

This column has been, in many respects, an opportunity for me to admit my “sins.” (We can’t call it Cinema Sins; that’s already a thing) For many, missing a movie that is part of the Canon™ is a heresy. Perhaps no sin of mine, many though they may be, has been as grave as missing the movie that is the subject of today’s issue. Indeed, for this sin, many have wished upon me to rot in frothy gore

within the mouth of Satan at the center of the Inferno. This film that I reference is, of course, *Saving Private Ryan*.

Saving Private Ryan came out in 1998 as a star-studded blockbuster with an even more famous director, Steven Spielberg. Costing a fortune at the time and highly anticipated, it was essentially guaranteed to be a resounding success. Its cinematography went on to essentially define the war film genre, and I can see its effects on some of the most recent examples, such as 1914 and *Dunkirk*.

I’ll admit it: I found it a little cheesy. Much like reading Hemingway, I’ve theorized that it was so revolutionary as to seem almost ordinary in light of modern film-making. That being said, I still quite enjoyed this movie. I’m a bit of a sucker for war movies, and this movie captures the attention like few other movies in the genre do. While its plot is typical, the strength of emotion that it carries is unlike any other. That can be large-

ly chocked up to the truly incredible performances from Tom Hanks and, later on, Matt Damon.

As always, I will not belabor the plot so that all of you can enjoy it naturally for the first time like I did. In short, Captain John Miller and his unit are sent on a rescue mission to save the last surviving son of the Ryan family, which lost three of its four sons at Normandy. The rest of the story is accurately summarized by this: all of the mischief that you might expect from a long trek through enemy German lines in a WWII action flick.

Melodramatic it might be, *Saving Private Ryan* is likely the pinnacle of the war film genre, and as a man between the ages of 15 and 99, I thoroughly enjoy war films. Though it has its flaws, none of them are significant enough to warrant mention. I have been given the rare opportunity to review a classic as if for the first time: I will do my best to earn it.

Saving Private Ryan earns a solid 98%.

TATE, CONT’D

and calculating. In his view, he is the main character of his own story, often comparing himself to Neo from “The Matrix.” Andrew Tate has been very fortunate in his manipulation of others to gain a fortune. He disregards the needs of others for the sake of his monetary gain. On top of that, he is very open about flaunting his money, infamously quipping about those who disliked the color of his car, “Well, what color is your Bugatti?” In 2017, Andrew Tate once degraded the father of a cerebral palsy patient, remarking, “Do you feel like a failure that the amount you need to help your own son is less than a quarter of what I spend on my 5 cars.” Tate prides himself on his idolization of money, seeing it as one of the few things that validates his superiority above the plebians. In my amateur analysis, I would describe Andrew Tate’s doctrine as a revival of Ayn Rand’s objectivist philosophy. Though he would likely be unfamiliar with the term, and thus not classify himself as such, objectivism is, in essence, a rejection of traditional morality, in favor of self-interest. Like Tate, Ayn Rand believed that an individual is solely responsible for themselves, and that charity and redistribution only rid the individual of their social mobility. If you care about others, you are sacrificing yourself and your own potential to develop mankind, to participate in a

meaningless concept like the greater good. If an individual tramples on others to better themselves, that is their natural right. Objectivism is about hierarchy, those with the most natural talent and therefore the most merit, create their own socio-economic conditions. Those at the bottom, i.e., those who are born without wealth, are purely responsible for their own condition. Tate resembles a social darwinist in the same sense. He believes that his wealth was generated because he was born as a great man, an Uber mensch, and thus he has the natural right to be above others in his own hierarchy. Unfortunately for Andrew Tate, his own personal hierarchy is not applicable to the real world. In April, 2022, an anonymous American called the U.S. embassy in Bucharest, Romania to report that Andrew Tate was holding his ex-girlfriend hostage. Tate had moved to Romania from the United Kingdom in 2017, after British police opened a domestic abuse investigation. Tate himself openly admitted that the move was because, “rape laws are more lenient there.” However, Tate could not escape justice, as shortly after the call to the U.S. embassy, Romanian authorities raided the home of Tate and his brother. In the house itself, the police discovered a webcam studio, in which they found four women, two of whom claimed they were being held

against their will. Both Tate brothers were detained as witnesses, but released pending investigation. Tate believed he had escaped the firm grip of justice, but even in far-flung Romania, they came knocking. For Tate, it only was a matter of time before the walls caved in, the clock was ticking. On December 28th, 2022, Andrew Tate posted an image of him filling up his prized Bugatti at a petrol station. Tagging environmentalist Greta Thunberg in the post, he jokingly asked for the activist’s email address, so he could send her the net carbon emissions of his 33 cars. Thunberg, in response, effectively told Tate that he had a small penis and that he should get a life. The next day, Tate, infuriated that someone would dare challenge his masculinity, responded to this post with not just a text clapback, but a full recorded video. In this video, Tate accuses Thunberg of attacking him personally and tells her to know her place. Immediately after this interaction, where Thunberg’s original tweet became one of the most liked of all time, Tate’s home was once again raided by Romanian authorities. During this raid, finding stockpiles of weapons, equipment for the cam girl business, and identified six people they described as being “sexually exploited” by the Tate brothers. Immediately after this, both of the Tates were detained

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BZL MUSIC: A REVIEW
OF SZA’s SOS

ADAM BRAZIL '24
STAFF WRITER

In December of 2022, SZA released her sophomore album, *SOS*, after more than a five year hiatus from the release of her debut album, *Ctrl*. It was worth the wait. SZA’s development as a musician is obvious. She went through a lot and has matured over the last five years in and out of the studio. Her vocals are satisfying to the ear. Her lyrics make you do a double take—whether it be because she references Star Wars or because of the raw, deep cutting feelings she shares on songs like “Nobody Gets Me,” “Special,” and “Ghost in the Machine.” *SOS* consists of 23 songs, but it takes only about an hour to listen all the way through. This album is a really creative mix of Rap, Hip-Hop, and Pop.

From my perspective, SZA uses *SOS* to work her way through the

five stages of grief. This begins with the albums’ opening songs, “SOS,” “Kill Bill,” and “Seek & Destroy.” The stages of grief are different for everyone and SZA wants us to know that her healing process involved uncertainty and randomization too.

Denial: “Love Language” consists of SZA’s intrusive thoughts telling herself that she needs this man that she clearly does not need. She is stuck on him and does not want to move on. Meanwhile, on “Blind,” she sings “I don’t care how much you knew me in the past tense” which seems to insist that she has moved on from him completely and wants to forget anything ever happened.

Anger: “Kill Bill” seems to be everywhere. It’s a smash hit being looped on TikTok, the radio, my car, my AirPods, and anywhere else I go. The title and lyricism in the song both refer to Taran-

tino’s 2003 film *Kill Bill*. SZA sings, “I might kill my ex, not the best idea” and “I just killed my ex, I still love him though, rather be in hell than alone.” Obviously, SZA is quite upset. It is rumored that her ex-boyfriend cheated on her and that

this song is made to reflect her anger towards him. The tune is extremely catchy and deserves all the plays it gets. **Bargaining:** “Used” and “Gone Girl” are excellent examples of tracks that embody the bargaining stage of grief. In “Used” featuring Don Toliver, SZA explains that she is used to being used. Don Toliver fits really well in this song. “Gone Girl” is all about what SZA thinks she needs following the breakup. SZA references Ben Affleck’s film, *Gone Girl*, in which Affleck’s wife disappears after finding out that he cheated on her. SZA imagines a similar scenario.

Depression: “Special” and “Nobody Gets Me” are very depressing songs (to me at least). On “Special,” SZA sings, “I wanted to be thick, now I wanna be thin... I wish I was special, I gave all my special away to a loser / Now I’m just a loser, I used to be special / But you made me hate me.” On “Nobody Gets Me,” she sings, “I don’t want to lose what’s left of you / How am I supposed to tell you / I don’t wanna see you with anyone but me? / Nobody gets me like you.” She continues, “How am I supposed to let you go? / Only like myself when I’m with you / Nobody gets me, you do.” I’d say ouchie.

Acceptance: Two of the best songs on the album fall into this category—“Open Arms” featuring Travis Scott and “Good Days.” First of all, Travis Scott floats. He absolutely bodies his verse by ditching his usual autotuned voice for a soft and soulful performance on “Open Arms.” However, “Good Days,” which was released much before the album itself, is still the best song on the album. SZA comes to peace when she sings these lines in cohesion: “I don’t miss no ex, I don’t miss no text / I choose not to respond / I don’t regret, just pretend it never happened / Half of us laying waste to our youth, it’s in the

present / Half of us chasing fountains of youth and it’s in the present now.”

The cover art is special. SZA sits at the end of a long white diving board. Her legs swing off the edge as she looks out to an endless sea. Ninety percent of the cover itself is the deep blue ocean. The St. Louis native wears an oversized St. Louis Blues hockey jersey paired with a pair of Timberland boots. She appears to be at peace with herself, signified by her chin lifted high, her eyes softly closed, and the golden hour lighting resting on her face. More than just a beautiful piece of cover art, *SOS*

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SPORTS

RUBINO REPORTS:

NICK RUBINO '25
STAFF WRITER

NFL EXCITEMENT ELECTRIFIES!

With the NFL season coming to an end, the anticipation to see how this season concludes is ramping up. There were four great games over the weekend that did not disappoint.

First, let's start with the Cowboys and the 49ers.

The quarterback for the 49ers, Brock Purdy, remains undefeated as the 49ers beat the Cowboys in a close game. The final score ended with 19-12. Brock Purdy did not have a dazzling performance, however, he got the job done. Purdy completed 19 out of 29 passes and threw for 214 yards on the day. The MVP of this game was the whole 49ers defense. The 49ers' defense held the third-most-scoring offense in the league to only 12 points and two interceptions and continued to shine as they have all year. They will be playing the Eagles this coming week and hope to stun Jalen Hurts and the Eagles. Only time will tell.

Next, the Bills mafia went down today as the Bengals beat them 27-10.

Joe Burrow continued to shine as the QB 1 for the Bengals completing 23 out of 36 passes. These passing attempts went for 242 yards and two touchdowns. The running back for the Bengals, Joe Mixon, also had a spectacular day running for 105 yards on 20 carries with a touchdown. This year will be the Bengals' 2nd year in a row that they will go back to the AFC championship and will be playing Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs. Can history repeat itself and the Bengals find themselves in another Super Bowl? Again, only time will tell.

Philly's Eagles versus the Subpar Giants.

The game began with pure

dominance from the Eagles, and that dominance did not cease at all. The Eagles stomped on the Giants. The final crushing score was 38-7. The quarterback for the Eagles, Jalen Hurts, had himself a DAY. He went 16 for 24 passes which went for 154 yards. Two passing 2 touchdowns and a rushing touchdown are pretty good, to say the least. The Eagles are on to play the 49ers after this win, and in my opinion, this game will be their biggest test of the year. Fly, eagles, fly.

The last matchup of the weekend wastheChiefsversustheJaguars.

The Jaguars put up a valiant effort but ultimately could not hold off the dynamic Chiefs losing 27-20. The Chiefs quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, had a solid game completing 22 out of 27 passes. These attempts went for 195 yards in the air and two significant touchdowns. He got injured in the first quarter, but his replacement Chad Henne threw for a touchdown during his absence. Talk about stepping up when it matters. Mahomes ended up finishing the game, which was a positive sight for any NFL fan to see, but realized he has a high ankle sprain on his right ankle. This leaves us NFL fans with a question to chew on: will the leader of the Chiefs be well enough to play Joe Burrow and the Bengals? On top of that, can the Chiefs overcome the demons of last year's season when they lost to the Bengals? All of these exciting games lead to the AFC and NFC championships. The Bengals play the Chiefs and the 49ers play the Eagles in each respective conference. My central prediction for the end of this season will be the Bengals and the 49ers in the Super Bow with the 49ers winning it all. You heard it here first. Only time will tell.

MONEY MOVES:
SMART OF STUPID?

PETER TARSOVICH '26
STAFF WRITER

Over the past two months, the MLB offseason has been in full swing and major moves have been struck. Many superstars have found new places to call home and Stephen Cohen's Mets look to set the trend on how teams may have to approach free agency. Per MLB.com, the New York Mets have spent almost 500 million dollars this offseason on free agents like last year's Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander (two years, 86.6 million), Japanese sensation Ko-dai Senga (five years, 75 million), the re-signing of Edwin Díaz (five years, 102 million) and Brandon Nimmo (eight

years, 162 million). The number would have increased more if the Carlos Correa saga went a different way, but the Mets should easily be at the top of the World Series bets.

Not to be outdone, the Yankees had their own spending spree. The Bronx Bombers re-signed reigning American League MVP Aaron Judge to a nine-year, 360-million-dollar deal and also named him the 16th captain of the Yankees. The Yankees also signed former San Francisco Giant Carlos Rodon (six years, 162 million) to complement Gerrit Cole in the rotation. Besides where Aaron Judge was going to go, one of the main storylines was the free-agent shortstop class. The four

shortstops, Carlos Correa, Xander Bogaerts, Trea Turner, and Dansby Swanson were set to make a truckload of money, and boy did they.

The largest deal went to Trea Turner, who the Philadelphia Phillies gave eleven years and 300 million dollars. Bogaerts comes in second getting eleven years and 280 million dollars from the San Diego Padres. Carlos Correa re-signed with the Minnesota Twins for six years and 200 million dollars but turned for 300+ million from the Mets and Giants after he failed physicals from both teams. Finally, Dansby Swanson signed a deal with the Chicago Cubs for seven years and

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KICKOFF WITH



COME AU



GAITHER COMEAU '24
STAFF WRITER

Well Tigers, it has been a while but I am finally back with the last update regarding college football. Over the last month, there were a number of exciting bowl games that helped entertain everyone over Christmas break. Whether it was Tulane's massive comeback against USC, Alabama's dismantling of Kansas State, or Tennessee's big win over Clemson, bowl season was full of great moments. However, the most widely anticipated games of the year took place in the college football playoff.

To kickoff the playoffs, Michigan faced an unexpected opponent in TCU. TCU is perhaps one of the biggest underdogs to get as far as they did within college football, and I think it's fair to say that nobody saw them doing what they did. After Michigan cruised into the playoff after an easy win in the Big Ten Championship, it seemed that TCU was playing harder and tougher football in the first half comparatively. Michigan was down going into the half after playing a very lackluster first half in comparison to what fans had seen from them all year. It seemed that TCU simply wanted the game more. Max Duggan and the TCU offense seemed to be moving the ball at will against the Wolverines, who had managed to hold arguably the best offense in the nation in Ohio State to just 23 points. Also, the TCU defense was able to bend and not break and get stops in crucial moments of the game, including a fumble recovery on the 1-yard line after a controversial overturn of a call. How-

ever, the Wolverines have been known to be a second-half team and came out firing against the Horned Frogs and continued to battle throughout the entire second half in an absolute shootout in which both teams exchanged blows with each other. However, TCU seemed to get ahead too much too early and walked away with a victory after an absolute classic. Later that night was perhaps the most anticipated matchup of the year. The Georgia Bulldogs took on the Ohio State Buckeyes in the Chic-fil-A Peach Bowl. These two titans were seen as the two best teams in college football for the majority of the year and this game left no doubts. Ohio State came out swinging and immediately showed why they were the best offense by moving the ball easily through the air against Georgia. Georgia took the opposite approach and moved the ball with ease on the ground game against an Ohio State defense that looked lost in their last game against Michigan. Going into the half, Ohio State led and continued to add to their lead in the third quarter and went up two scores. However, in the third quarter, a call was made that changed the feeling of the game when Marvin Harrison Jr. was taken out of the game after a hit that was later overturned from targeting to no call at all. Georgia was able to capitalize on this momentum and roared back in the fourth quarter to take the lead with barely anytime left on the clock. Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud single-handedly carried his team down the field to give their kicker

a chance to win the game. As the clock struck midnight to celebrate the new year the kick was far left, and the Georgia Bulldogs advanced to the national championship. After a week of anticipation, TCU and Georgia both faced off in Los Angeles for all the marbles. Georgia was the heavy favorite going into the matchup and showed why. Very early on in the game, it seemed that TCU was simply outmatched and could not move the ball or stop the Bulldogs which allowed for a quick 10-0 lead for Georgia. However, TCU struck back with a rushing touchdown by Max Duggan, the team's heart and soul, who seemed to have a chance to turn the tide of the game. This opportunity was quickly squashed by Georgia as they proceeded to score the most points in a championship game ever and did not allow any more scores by TCU. Georgia showed the world why they had been the number one team for the majority of the year by dismantling the Horned Frogs and taking their place as the champions of the college football world with a resounding score of 65-7. The Bulldogs became the first back-to-back champions within the college football playoff era and the first since Alabama in 2011 and 2012. Now that the season is over, the offseason begins, and each team will begin rebuilding and reloading for their shot at the title next year. One thing remains true: if any team is looking to take that spot at number one, then they will have to go through Georgia which still remains atop the throne of college football.



NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

THE BACK PAGE

CHRISTIANITY CORNER, CONT'D

tionship with God is a process. For some, they can be redeemed like Saint Paul in an instant, even though Saint Paul was still keen enough to recognize that it was the Lord calling to him on his way to Damascus. The life of Saint Ignatius of Loyola serves as an analogous example. He lived a material life as a soldier and politician. During a battle, his leg was broken by a cannonball, where he spent a year in a hospital. The only reading provided there was the story and life of Christ and the Saints. There Saint Loyola realized the vanity of his life and dedicated his life to spreading the Word of God. The Gospels and the Bible hold great power, but we must let it take root in us. The lives of Saint Paul and Saint Loyola show that we do not know where we will be in the future. People who currently seem like demons could become holy, pious men in as short of time as a year. We do not know how God will appear in our lives. However, our relationship with God takes time; it takes effort; and it takes sacrifice. Consider any other relationship that you, dear reader, has. If you have a girlfriend, is your relationship strong if you never talk to her, if you never take time out of your schedule to meet up with her and be in each other's presence? I would call such a relationship no relationship at all. This is how our relationship with God is as well. Can we say accurately that we love God if we never take

the time to speak with him through prayer or if we never take the time to sit silently in his presence? We must choose to be with God, for God's love for us respects our decisions even if it leads to damnation. With the Spring semester, we see ending on the horizon. For you Freshman, this will be the conclusion of your first year. I bet it has gone by quicker than you thought (the next years will go by even quicker). For you Seniors, this will be the conclusion of your college career. Life awaits. Let this ending innervate our spiritual rejuvenation. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, today is a good time to take another step, for with each step the journey becomes easier and the reward greater.

TATE, CONT'D (PART TWO)

and held without bail. The Tates's attempted to appeal their case, but in January, a Romanian judge deemed their charges to be too extreme to suspend their detention. The number of references I have seen to Andrew Tate and his status as the king of masculinity have fallen. Fortunately for the world, the number of glorious Hustlers in the young male population is beginning to drop. For one, association or admiration with Tate has become toxic in itself. Young men who looked up to Tate have now realized he is an infamous villain online, one who is considered a misogynist by most girls they attempt to meet. As a result, these men, desperate for the attention of women, have dropped him. Many who followed Tate for self-help have slowly discovered his true backstory, his ideology, and his many actual crimes. For most, however, Tate was a villain to begin with, a man who used his money and status to create a cult of personality, to surround him-

self with dedicated followers, who would follow his every move. As Tate's money disappears, as his cars are confiscated, and as images float around of him being dragged away by police like a petty criminal, his reputation disappears too. Tate set himself up for failure. A pyramid may make a stable foundation in architecture, but with a social pyramid, a hierarchy, it only takes a few shifts for the whole structure to come crashing down.

MONEY MOVES, CONT'D

177 million. Something interesting to take note of this off-season is that the top free agents signed contracts for longer

years right then a but 2023 looks to bring in a new age of baseball, and hopefully for the better.

SZA, CONT'D

pays tribute to the late Princess Diana. In fact, the album cover mirrors that of a picture of Princess Diana sitting at

the end of a diving board with only the ocean behind her. I loved this album and I am willing to bet that I will return to many of these songs in the future. 9/10

GOP IN CHAOS: PART ONE

JOHN C. HAYNES '26
STAFF WRITER

Our flight was in fourteen hours. My mom was moving from room to room, scrounging through closets and dressers, trying to find every item she could possibly need to pack. My dad was at his computer, set up in a corner of his bedroom, desperately trying to finish his last report before our week-long vacation. My grandmother had just arrived at our house, having come all the way from Charleston. Already she was developing travel anxiety for our upcoming flight. Meanwhile, I was on the couch, shoes off with my hole-ridden socks in the open air, watching the latest developments in the congressional penis measuring contest. My grandma, completely overcome by travel anxiety, sat down and tried to calm herself by watching the news too. Unfortunately for her, the news is not designed to relieve stress. While my grandma dived deeper into anxiety and stress about the future of our country, I sat back and smirked, sadistically enjoying the chaos of American politics.

In November, 2022, the Republican Party suffered from an electoral embarrassment; the worst electoral showing for a non-incumbent party in a midterm election since 2002. For twenty straight years, five midterm elections, the non-incumbent party gained seats in both the House of Representatives and Senate. In 2022, this was not the case. The Republican Party came out of November with only a ten seat majority in

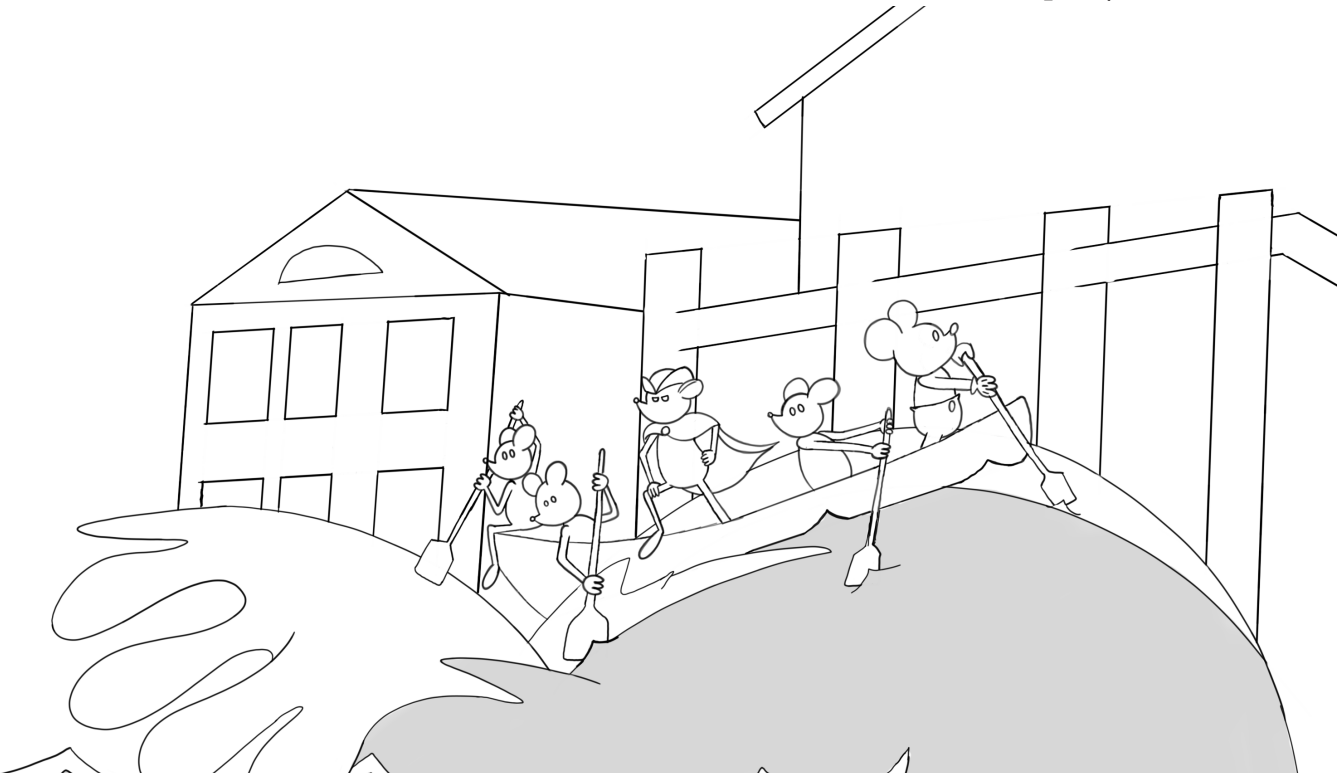
the House of Representatives, with a net gain of only 11 seats. Moreover, the greatest embarrassment suffered by the GOP was not simply their failure to take the Senate, but the expansion of the Democratic majority in the upper chamber. Immediately, despite taking the lower chamber, the news lambasted the Republican Party's underperformance, labeling it as a catastrophic electoral failure. Republican politicians and operatives looked increasingly incompetent to both their peers and their constituents. As a consequence, Republicans turned on each other, looking for someone or something to blame.

Political scientists and analysts have formulated many probable causes for the Republican underperformance in November of 2022. Most consider the Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization in June, which overturned the 1973 decision Roe v. Wade, to be the greatest factor. Others cite the "quality" of Republican candidates, their perceived competence and their perceived extremism, as reasons for Republican failure in competitive races. This immediately led to infighting between the factions of the Republican Party. Since the election of Donald Trump in 2016, at face value, the Republican Party rallied behind the 45th President. However, since Trump's electoral defeat in 2020, cracks have begun to form in the foundation, with internal Republican factions debating the future of the party.

On one hand, you have the freaks, colloquially known as the "populists." The populists are a range of people which can range from the blue-collar workers of the old Obama coalition to the hard-right libertarianism of Rand Paul. These populists generally agree on a handful of issues, a non-interventionist foreign policy, a protectionist trade policy, a strong emphasis on national sovereignty, and oftentimes a lack of respect for Democratic institutions. On the other hand, you have the geeks, colloquially known as the "technocrats" or "neoconservatives." This faction has been dominant in Republican politics since the 1980s, rising with the conservative "Reagan Revolution." The neoconservatives believe strongly in America's global role as a "bastion of democracy." Unlike the nationalism of the populist faction, which advocates for America to be a power standing alone, the neoconservatives believe in military interventionism and free trade. The neoconservatives have dominated American foreign policy for the past forty years, hence leading to populist backlash. The neoconservatives also further emphasize fiscal conservatism, and especially austerity, when compared to their populist counterparts. And most of all, unlike the populists, the neoconservatives have some kind of instinct to defend the republican institutions in the United States.

SAMUEL ROBELEN '23
CARTOONIST

Cartoon



LAB RATS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PAULEY FLOOD TO MAKE DARING ESCAPE